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instance, the statement as to the independence of the towns in the fifteenth century in the first paragraphs of the book not only gives an exaggerated and a false impression, but as a generalization it is contradicted by the multitude of individual limitations detailed afterward, especially in the chapter on the "Problem of Government." Lastly, the author's somewhat uncritical habit allows one constantly to suppose that she considers the stages of development of all the towns to have been so nearly simultaneous, and their characteristics so similar that what is true for one is true for all at the same period. On page 179 of the first volume, the declaration that the newly made burgess "was bound to live within the walls of the borough, for his franchise was forfeited if he forsook the town for a year and a day" is a perfectly general statement, and we learn from a foot-note only that the provision was peculiar to Carlisle. Perhaps in an individual instance such an objection is hypercritical, but when it occurs a hundred times, the value of the work is seriously diminished.

To sum up then, the large body of intelligent general readers of history will find the work under review eminently valuable and interesting, the small group of special students of English economic history will find in it valuable references to original sources and suggestive descriptions of detached episodes, but they will not find that any substantial progress has been made in their own field of work.

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Co-operative Production. By BENJAMIN JONES, with prefatory note by the Rt. Hon. A. H. Dyke Acland, M. P., Vice-president of the Committee of Council on Education. Pp. viii and 839. Price, \$3.50. Oxford: Clarendon Press; New York: Macmillan & Co., 1894.

This book, for which "The History of Co-operation in Great Britain" would be a less misleading title, finds its public ready to receive it. While not a little has been written concerning the theory, expediency and desirability of co-operation, we have here for the first time an exhaustive account of the practice of the movement. The following sentences from the preface explain sufficiently the character of the work: "To preserve the experience and knowledge of those who remember some of the earlier efforts in associated industry, . . . and to search such scanty records as remain, is the task which has been undertaken here. . . . Here, for the first time, are put together, in a compact form, the records of many efforts, successful and unsuccessful, to realize the aims of the older co-operators of the earlier part of this century. . . . This information was fast slipping away when Mr. Jones

began the series of articles in the Co-operative News which are to a large extent embodied in this volume."

The book is addressed more particularly to co-operators. But, though its interest is greatest for them, everyone believing in an economic solution of the labor problem will find in it much suggestive material. To the general reader it is an encyclopedia of information. The fact that it is limited to the co-operative movement in Great Britain need not strongly militate against its value, since in that country co-operation has attained its highest development.

The book falls naturally into three parts. The first treats briefly, and in a general way, of the beginning and working of certain phases of the movement. In introducing the subject the author gives a brief and not very well arranged account of the co-operative movement. The community experiments are then treated. A chapter devoted to Robert Owen's co-operative community is quoted, for the most part, from a tract by Owen himself, and gives the reader a very incomplete idea of Robert Owen and his experiments. Nothing is said of the experiments in America. The author next treats of the Labor Exchanges, or the effort to adjust the supply of labor to the demand; redemption societies for the redemption of labor by collections from the laborers; and the Christian socialist associations. The author also discusses the relation of labor societies to the law, explaining under what difficulties they have labored before and since "limited liability" has been applied to them. Some general statistics are given concerning Domestic Production, under which term are included tailoring, shoemaking, baking and the dressing of cattle.

The second and by far the most important part of the book is that devoted to the history of the hundreds of co-operative experiments which have been undertaken since the time of Owen. It contains a wealth of information and shows a considerable amount of careful research. The author has obtained his information at first hand, and gives numerous quotations and exact references which should prove invaluable to the student. All departments of industry are treated. Fully three-fourths of the book are devoted to these descriptions, which cover experiments in corn-milling societies, cotton factories, woolen factories, sundry textile and kindred societies, boot and shoe societies, the iron trades, the collieries, building and allied trades, printing, publishing and paper making, agriculture and miscellaneous societies. An interesting chapter is also devoted to the wholesale societies. The plan pursued in these sketches is to take up each society, explain the purpose for which it was organized, mention the number of members, and the capital per person. Figures to show the amount of sales, receipts, expenditures, gains and losses follow. The progress made, its

success or failure and the reason for it completes the sketch and affords sufficient material on which to base conclusions, and make valuable comparisons.

The rest of the book, less than a hundred pages, represents the views of the author on co-operation. The author has contented himself with making general suggestions. He reviews the purpose of co-operation, saying "the great animating influence in all co-operative effort has been the desire to obtain justice," that it has been "the inconsiderate treatment of work-people" which has roused them in an endeavor to help themselves. For co-operation to succeed the author emphasizes three things, education of all classes in the ideas of co-operation ; a proper appreciation of the " necessity of the division of labor, exchange of services, and the accumulation of capital," and a knowledge of the value of " democratic association."

The mere mention of the more important questions arising in co-operative work—the organization and management of co-operative societies, and the problem of profits and profit sharing, and finally a consideration of the nation itself as a co-operator—suggests the wide field of debate into which the author enters. The volume as a whole deserves praise. Some of the subjects have been more fully treated by other writers, but much of the information is not elsewhere available. It is not a display of rhetoric ; the author rightly contents himself with telling his facts in a straightforward manner.

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Bimetallism. By HENRY DUNNING MACLEOD. Pp. 138. Price, \$1.75. London and New York : Longmans, Green & Co., 1894.

Honest Money. By ARTHUR F. FONDA. Pp. 209. Price, \$1.00. New York and London : Macmillan & Co., 1895.

Common Sense Currency. A Practical Treatise on Money in its Relations to National Wealth and Prosperity. Intended for the Use of the Common People. By JOHN PHIN. Pp. 244. Price, \$1.00. New York : The Industrial Publication Company, 1894.

Henry Dunning MacLeod's tract on Bimetallism, the object of which is "to supply to monometallists a concise but sufficiently full statement of the facts and arguments upon which their system is founded," is an excellent sample of the complaisant type. Mr. MacLeod crushes bimetalism to dust. Bombast fills a preface of sixteen pages. The book is, indeed, worthy of a better preface, yet it is no answer at all to bimetalism. There is considerable reason for suspecting that Mr. MacLeod has no idea of the bimetalist's contention. Nowhere does